

1931

History of the Church; 1931

First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/firstbaptist_history

Recommended Citation

First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, "History of the Church; 1931" (1931). *History*. 4.
http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/firstbaptist_history/4

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the First Baptist Church at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in History by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu.

First Baptist Church
History

FOREWORD

In presenting this little booklet, the officers of the First Baptist Church earnestly desire that every member of the church shall become thoroughly conversant with its contents.

A brief but comprehensive history of our church is given in order that we may look back upon its early struggles and honor those faithful and devoted members who organized and carried on the Baptist cause in this city with the true pioneer spirit. As we note the progress that has been made, let us join in thanking God who hath given the increase.

The future is ours with new problems and new and greater opportunities. The recent adoption of the By-laws printed herein marks an important advance in the development of an effective organization for the administration of the temporal affairs of our church. Our real success in the future depends upon the faith and loyalty of each individual member. This is your church and the officers hope that each member will deem it both a duty and a privilege to actively participate in the work of the church to the fullest extent possible. Jesus Christ is the head of this church. Let us prove our loyalty to Him in terms of service.

It is also fitting that recognition should be given of the fact that the printing of this Manual has been executed in our own print shop, in which exceptionally fine and loyal service has been rendered during the past three years by two of our valued young men. Edward Abendschein and Kendrick Newton.

FRANK S. TRIGG,
Chairman Trustees.

JOHN B. CLARK,
Chairman Deacons.

LUELLA B. RICHARDSON,
Chairman Deaconesses.

CHURCH COVENANT

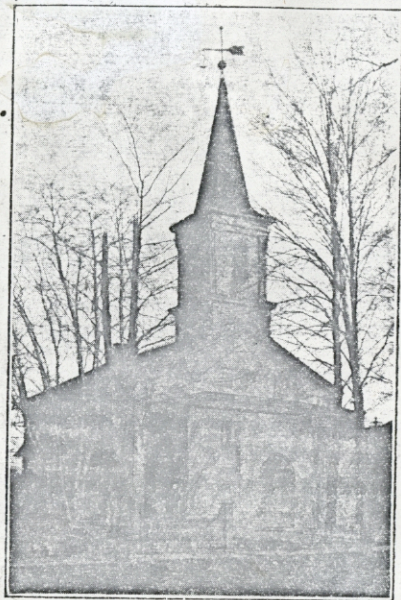
Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour; and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.



THE OLD CHURCH

Erected 1854 Dedicated January 10, 1855
Used as our place of Worship until January 13, 1901

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Few Baptists dwelt in this community in the early "Forties," and they were generally connected with the Baptist church at Lewiston.

Desiring to meet for regular worship nearer home, they petitioned the Lewiston church to constitute them a branch of that organization. This request was granted on the 27th day of November 1841, and the little company met in a covenant meeting on the 17th day of December following. Elder Adam Cleghorn was made their under shepherd and at their first meeting they received Miss Rhoda A. Chamberlain as a candidate for baptism, which rite was administered to her two days later, December 19th.

On January 11, 1842, the thirteen members constituting the Niagara Falls branch of the Lewiston church petitioned the mother church that they be dismissed in order to form a fully constituted and regular Baptist Church in this community. The petition was granted eleven days later, January 22nd, and on February 2nd they met at the home of Miss Maria Waits and organized themselves into "The Baptist Church of Niagara Falls."

At this first meeting Joseph Nixon was made clerk and Elder Cleghorn installed as their pastor. On request he drew up "Articles of Faith" and a "Covenant," which were adopted and transcribed in full in the first record of the church.

They must have been a band of earnest workers for, though they had no building, the records show that they met regularly in different homes for worship from week to week; and for many months there was at least one person presented at each service for membership—some by letter, but most as candidates for baptism.

On February 27, 1843, the first steps were taken for a church edifice. But it was not until twelve years later that the plan was consummated. A lot was secured on

First street—as the record reads: “Proffered by Augustus Porter, Esq., for the express purpose of building a church.”

Elder Jacob Blain, then pastor, with others, was given authority to solicit funds for a church building, and the first subscription is reported thus: “A subscription of \$59 from Buffalo, through the influence of Elder Tucker; with a prospect of getting \$100 in the course of the spring.”

The usual routine is shown by the records for the next two years, during which time four pastors served the church. But from 1845 to 1854 the records are very incomplete and show no regular pastor, although such names as Rev. F. H. Johnson, Rev. H. J. Stimson and others appear to have become members of the church and helped in directing affairs, principally prayer meetings and Sunday School exercises.

On December 3, 1854, Rev. Charles Keyser was made pastor, and remained with the church for nearly three years. About this time the organization took on new life and the building proposition, which had apparently been gathering strength through the past years, reached its fruition in the completion of our first church edifice on First street, where it still stands, though now used as a storehouse. On a preceding page is an illustration of the old church as it appeared in its days of service to this congregation.

The dedication took place on January 10, 1855. The specifications describe it as a building “forty feet long, thirty-six feet wide with fourteen foot walls and a basement beneath made of stone.” The first specification called for a building of brick, but stone was finally decided upon, because, as the records show, not more than twenty-thousand brick could be gotten at that time. A further interesting item from the record is that logs were to be had at “37½¢ each and sleepers, all they wanted, at \$1.50, and timber at \$1.00 per 100, running measure.”

Following the pastorate of Rev. Chas. Keyser, which ended in July, 1857, came those of Rev. E. T. Robinson, from 1859 to 1860; Rev. Henry W. Barnes, from July, 1866, to August, 1870; Rev. A. M. Tennant, from August, 1872, to July, 1874. It will be seen there were considerable breaks between these respective pastorates, though the church records mention the usual routine of activity.

After the close of Rev. Tennant's term in July, 1874, more than twelve years passed before another regular pastor was installed and very little is known of the life of the church during that period until, in November, 1885, two evangelists, J. C. Brand and A. Caldwell, came into the life of the church and, by two separate votes of the membership, were kept at work with the congregation, virtually as pastors, for a full year. During their stay the church was fired with a new zeal which has never died out, nor even died down.

In November, 1886, the evangelists turned the work over to a regularly called pastor, Rev. G. H. Kemp.

During the dark, or dormant, days from 1874 to 1885, the members of the church scattered themselves for worship among other congregations; but under the revival of interest aroused by the evangelists and the new pastor they came back with a renewed purpose and a determination to stand by their own cause. Some of our present most efficient members were among the number; and they have clung to the work with a tenacity and self sacrifice that has resulted in our pleasant splendid organization, with one of the best houses of worship in the city as well as one of the largest, most loyal and active membership bodies.

For thirteen years, 1886 to 1899—pastors Kemp, Webb, Mitchell and Rae led the congregation successfully in the old church home. But as the increasing number of trains, and consequent greater noise from the New York Central Railroad, became more and more disturbing, in the old church, it was determined to seek a new locality.

Accordingly the property was disposed of, and our present location acquired.

It fell to the lot of Rev. Abner F. Bowling and his faithful followers to make this fortunate move and lay the corner stone of our present church home on June 16, 1900.

On January 20, 1901, the first hour's service was held in the new building; and, during the following week, attractive and enthusiastic dedicatory services were conducted with several prominent out-of-town Baptists assisting. Among them was the Rev. Dr. A. S. MacArthur, for forty years pastor in New York City, and pastor-at-large and president of the "World's Baptist Alliance." Dr. MacArthur preached the dedication sermon, January 21st, 1901. Particularly adding to the fecility of the occasion was the presence of the venerable Rev. Adam Cleghorn who first served the church as pastor.

During Pastor Bowling's term of six year's service, more than three hundred persons united with the church by letter and baptism. His pastorate ended in July, 1935. Then succeeded an interim without a regular pastor until the coming of Rev. John E. Vassar, April 1, 1907. During this period the church was ably served by Rev. S. S. Kneeland of Buffalo whose able preaching and kindly personality did much to strengthen the church.

The pastorate of Mr. Vassar was marked by unprecedented growth and prosperity. His genial personality and untiring efforts won a large number of additions to the membership of both the church and Bible School. In 1915 a city-wide religious revival conducted by Evangelist Aldrich also materially benefitted the church.

Under Rev. Vassar's leadership, the church property was greatly improved and the large debt was materially reduced. At the same time greater interest was aroused in the missionary activities of our denomination and the people responded generously to the appeal for a larger contribution to these objects. Much of this progress may be justly attributed to the quiet and unassuming but exceedingly tactful and capable leadership of Mrs. Vassar in her work with the women's organizations.

It was with genuine regret that the congregation accepted the resignation of Mr. Vassar upon his decision

to move to another field after nine years of service, the longest pastorate in the history of the church.

The church then called Rev. Charles J. McLean who began his work in September, 1916. It fell to his lot to lead the church through the trying period of the World War during which our city was in a continual turmoil of fevered activity in the manufacture of munitions, of thousands of troops passing through on their way to training camps or to embark for the front, and of all the varied activities incident to the work of preparation and maintenance of these forces and the purpose to bring to a successful conclusion the great conflict.

The calm assurance and the able constructive preaching of Pastor McLean constituted the stabilizing influence that was so much needed at this time and during his pastorate the church grew and prospered in spite of the adverse conditions. After nearly four years of strenuous service, Mr. McLean resigned in July, 1920, and the church regretfully accepted.

The next pastor to accept our call was Rev. Arthur B. Mercer who came to the church in January, 1921. Building on the success of his predecessors, Mr. Mercer energetically set to work to liquidate the remaining debt on the church and to plan for the expansion of the facilities for service. At this time the church acquired the residence property adjoining the church which had been built and occupied by Deacon W. A. Jamason for many years. The fine residence on the front of the lot became the church parsonage and in the course of time the old house on the rear of the lot was torn down to make room for an addition to the church.

Pastor Mercer believed that the church should take a greater part in the affairs of our city and that facilities should be provided for community service of a definite character. Finally his vision of the future culminated in the building of a three-story addition to the church edifice. This addition provided for a gym-

nasium and assembly and class rooms for departments of the Bible School and some of the organized classes which were badly in need of room. This project placed the church under a burden of debt greater than the original cost of the church. Plans were immediately made for the gradual liquidation of this indebtedness and under the enthusiastic leadership of Pastor Mercer substantial amounts were raised for this purpose.

After six years of service Rev. Mercer decided to terminate his pastorate and in November, 1926, tendered his resignation, which was accepted only when it became certain that no further inducement that could be offered Mr. Mercer would avail to change his decision.

Very soon after the departure of Rev. and Mrs. Mercer the choice of the church fell upon Rev. Eugene G. Mintz, who began his work on January 1, 1927 under very auspicious circumstances. During his pastorate of four years much progress has been noted.

This period has marked the extension of Baptist work in this city by the organization and establishment of a new church in the northeastern corner of the city. Two of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Adams, seeing the opportunity began an evangelistic work in this somewhat neglected section. Through the influence of Pastor Mintz the Baptist Missionary Convention of New York has assisted in financing the erection of a small building capable of considerable expansion and in June, 1930, the Emmanuel Baptist Tabernacle was recognized as an independent church with a total membership of 42. Mr. Adams has since been ordained and is serving as the pastor, without pay.

Although the wide-spread economic depression of 1930-1931 has seriously hindered the work, there is no indication that the willing spirit of the people has been affected. One of the most hopeful signs of future prosperity lies in the fine active group of young people who will no doubt assume the places of leadership in the church before many years have passed.

Corner Stone laid June 16th, 1900

PRESENT CHURCH HOME

Dedicated January 21, 1901



Pursuant to the powers conferred upon the First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, New York as a corporation organized under the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York by its Certificate of Incorporation dated April 2, 1890, the following By-laws were adopted at a meeting of the said corporation called and held in accordance with the provisions of the said Religious Corporations Law, on June 3rd, 1931.

These By-laws together with any amendments that may hereafter be legally adopted govern the management of the property of the corporation, the regulation of its affairs, the election and action of its officers and the calling and conduct of its meetings, and supercede all rules and regulations of whatever nature enacted previously to the date of adoption hereof.

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of the corporation and of the church society whose members constitute the corporation shall be The First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, New York.

ARTICLE II—PURPOSE

The object of this church shall be to maintain the public worship of God and the ordinances of the New Testament; to promote Christian living; to spread abroad the knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Savior of mankind and to aid in the extension of His Kingdom throughout the world.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this church shall be composed of two classes defined as follows:

Class A shall be composed of all persons entitled to full membership privileges by election thereto as hereinafter provided, subject only to the limitations imposed upon minors under sixteen years of age.

Class B shall be composed of such members as may be transferred from Class A by action of the church at a special meeting of which notice stating the purpose has been given at the Lord's Day services next preceding the date of such meeting.

Members in this class shall be suspended from all the privileges of membership except that of receiving communion and shall not be reported in any enumeration of church members for denominational or statistical purposes.

Section 1. Admission to Class A membership in this

church may be accomplished by meeting the requirements of either of the following subsections and election thereto by the qualified voters present and voting at any regular meeting:

a. By giving evidence of a desire to live a Christian life, presentation to the church by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons or the Board of Deaconesses and submission to the ordinance of Baptism by immersion.

b. By presentation of a letter of dismissal from any other Baptist church, or a letter of recommendation from any other Protestant church satisfactory to the Pastor and Deacons and provided the requirement of baptism by immersion has been met.

c. By giving evidence of Christian experience satisfactory to the Pastor and Deacons, if having been baptized by immersion, but holding membership in no church or holding membership in a church of another denomination which does not grant letters of dismissal or commendation.

d. By restoration, if having been transferred to Class B membership as hereinafter provided, dropped or excluded from membership, on confession of negligence or error and giving evidence of repentance.

e. Every candidate for admission by any of the foregoing methods shall recognize the Church Covenant as the tie which shall bind him or her to the obligations imposed by membership in this church.

Section 2. Termination of Class A membership.

a. Membership shall be automatically terminated by the death of a member.

b. Membership may be terminated by the grant of a letter of dismissal addressed to another Baptist church and certifying that the holder is in good and regular standing, such status having been determined by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting. Such a letter shall be valid for six months from the date thereof but membership in this church shall not be deemed to have ceased until notifi-

ration of the acceptance of the member has been received from the church addressed.

c. Membership may be terminated by the grant of a letter of commendation, in the case of a member desiring to unite with a church of another denomination. Such letter certifying to the Christian character of the member may be granted by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting and shall be valid for six months from date thereof, but membership in this church shall not be deemed to have ceased until notification of the acceptance of the member by the church addressed has been received.

Section 3. Membership in Class B shall be established only upon the recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons or Deaconesses presented at a special meeting of the church and adoption of such recommendation by a majority vote of the members present and voting at such meeting. Membership in this class may be recommended in one of the following cases:

a. Resident members who have given no evidence of interest in the church over a period of two years and from whom no satisfactory explanation has been received.

b. Non-resident members who have failed to ask for their church letter or from whom no communication has been received during a period of one year from the date of removal from the city.

Section 4. Termination of Class B membership.

a. Membership shall be terminated by the death of a member.

b. Membership may be terminated by transfer to Class A membership on the recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons or Deaconesses and a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting.

c. Membership may be terminated by the granting of a letter of dismissal or commendation which clearly states the status of the member and acceptance thereof by the church addressed within three months of the date of such letter, upon a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting.

Section 5. All members of this church shall be subject to its discipline and liable to suspension of membership or exclusion from its fellowship for infractions thereof.

Members may be dropped from either Class A or Class B membership or excluded from the fellowship of the brethren present and voting at a meeting of the church of which previous notice of at least one week has been publicly given stating the nature of the business to be transacted.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS, THEIR DUTIES AND TERMS OF OFFICE.

Section 1. The Pastor shall be elected at a special meeting called for the purpose, to serve the church for such a term as may be mutually agreed upon at the time of his acceptance of the call of the church.

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach and conduct the public worship of the church at its stated services; to administer the ordinances; to promote in every way possible the spiritual welfare of the members by pastoral and friendly intercourse and Christian example.

It shall also be the duty of the Pastor to act as chairman of all meetings except as hereinafter provided; to cooperate with the other officers of the church in matters pertaining to church discipline and policy in the conduct of its temporal affairs; and to perform such other duties as may become incumbent upon him.

The Pastor shall be allowed a vacation period of not less than one month in each year at such time as may be agreed between himself and the Board of Deacons, for the purpose of physical and mental recuperation.

Unless otherwise agreed, the relation of Pastor and people may be terminated at any time by giving of three months notice thereof by either party or by special arrangement mutually agreeable. In no case however, shall the relationship be terminated except by the action of the church at a special meeting of which notice shall have been publicly given at the services on the Lord's Day next preceding.

Section 2. The Board of Deacons.

There shall be twelve Deacons, four of whom shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting each to serve for a term of three years or until successor is elected. Only Class A male members of full age shall be eligible for the office of Deacon.

Any vacancy on this board caused by the death or removal of a Deacon from the city or by cessation of

Class A membership in this church may be filled by the remaining Deacons until the next annual meeting.

It shall be the duty of the Deacons to assist the Pastor in the performance of his duties and in his absence or disability to provide for the maintenance of the worship of the church and its other stated services; to exercise a watchful oversight of the church membership and at all times to maintain the discipline of the church; to administer the Fellowship Fund for the benefit of such members as may be in need of assistance; to examine and approve all applications for membership before presentation to the church and from time to time not less frequently than once a year to examine the church membership roll and the records of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for the purpose of making recommendations to the church regarding transfers between Class A and Class B membership or if necessary respecting members who have been delinquent to such an extent as to warrant erasure or exclusion.

The Board shall elect its own chairman and secretary.

Section 3. The Board of Deaconesses.

There shall be twelve Deaconesses four of whom shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting each to serve for a term of three years or until a successor is elected. Only Class A female members of full age shall be eligible for the office of Deaconess.

Any vacancy on this board caused by the death or removal of a Deaconess from the city or by cessation of Class A membership in this church may be filled by the remaining deaconesses until the next annual meeting.

It shall be the duty of the Deaconesses to assist the Pastor in the performance of his duties particularly with reference to matters involving their own sex.

The Deaconesses shall have the care of the service used at the Lord's Supper and shall prepare the elements for use in the observance of this ordinance.

It shall be the duty of the Deaconesses to exercise an equal care with the Deacons in maintaining the discipline of the church, the watchcare of the membership, the visitation of the sick and the revision of the church membership roll.

The Board shall elect its own chairman and secretary.

Section 4. The Board of Trustees.

There shall be nine trustees, three of whom shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting each to serve for a term of three years or until a successor is elected. Only Class A male members of full age shall be eligible for the office of trustee.

"If, however, any trustee declines to act, resigns or dies or having been a class A member of the church ceases to be such member (or not having been a member ceases to be a qualified voter at a corporate meeting thereof), his office shall be vacant and such vacancy may be filled by the remaining trustees until the next annual corporate meeting of the church at which meeting the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term." (Art. VI, Sections 73 and 75, Religious Corporations Law.)

"The trustees shall have the custody and control of all the temporalities and property, real or personal, belonging to the corporation and of the revenues therefrom and shall administer the same in accordance with the discipline rules and usages of the corporation . . . and with the provisions of law relating thereto, for the support and maintenance of the corporation, or, providing the members of the corporation shall so authorize, of some religious, charitable, benevolent, or educational object conducted by said corporation or in connection with it, or with the denomination, if any, with which it is connected, and they shall not use such property or revenues for any other purpose or divert the same from such uses." (Art. VI, Section 76, Relig. Corp. Law.)

The trustees shall be controlled by the By-laws of this church in so far as such By-laws or amendments thereto have been adopted in accordance with the Religious Corporations Laws of the State of New York.

"The trustees of an incorporated Baptist church shall have no power to settle or remove a minister or to fix his salary or without the consent of a corporate meeting, to incur debts beyond what is necessary for the administration of the temporal affairs of the church and for the care of the property of the corporation; or to fix the times, nature or order of the public or social worship of such church." (Art. VI, Section 76 Relig. Corp. Law.)

The Board of Trustees shall elect its own chairman and secretary.

Section 5. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

A Clerk and an Assistant Clerk shall be elected at each Annual Meeting each to serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected.

The Clerk shall keep a complete and permanent record of all meetings held and business transacted, notify all persons elected to office or appointed on committees of their election or appointment, and furnish the chairman of each committee with a list of persons appointed thereon.

The Clerk shall keep a complete and accurate roll of the members classified in accordance with the provisions of Art. III of these By-laws. Such roll shall contain the full name of each member, the last known address, the date and manner of admission, the date and cause of transfer from one class to another and upon the termination of such membership, the date and manner thereof, the entire record of such member then to be transferred to a historical file.

The Clerk shall report all cases of delinquency coming to his attention to the Deacons or Deaconesses and he shall endeavor to cooperate with them in keeping the membership roll complete and accurate and properly classified.

The Clerk shall prepare and sign all letters of dismission or commendation as directed by the church; prepare the annual letter to the Niagara Association which he shall certify and forward at the designated time after approval by the church; attend to such other correspondence as he may be directed and make a report to the church at the Annual Meeting showing the total number of members in each Class, the increases and decreases during the year and the causes thereof.

For the faithful performance of these duties, the Clerk may receive a salary not to exceed \$50.00 per annum payable quarterly.

The Assistant Clerk shall act in the absence or disability of the Clerk.

It shall be the especial duty of the Assistant Clerk to keep a roll of the non-resident members, together with their correct addresses and to endeavor to keep in communication with them until they obtain letters of dismission or until otherwise removed from membership.

Section 6. The Treasurer.

A Treasurer shall be elected at each Annual Meeting

to serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected. Only Class A members of full age shall be eligible for the office of treasurer. If so directed by the Board of Trustees, the treasurer shall give a suitable bond for the faithful performance of his duties before assuming office.

The Treasurer shall have charge of all monies of the church. He shall deposit or cause to be deposited all receipts in a bank designated by the Board of Trustees, and all disbursements shall be made by check and only upon the authority of the Board of Trustees, or in the case of the Fellowship Fund upon the authority of the Pastor and Deacons or Deaconesses. He shall keep proper accounts of various funds to which specific contributions are made and shall not make disbursements from such special funds except for the purposes designated at the time of contribution.

He shall prepare a quarterly statement of Receipts and Disbursements and a statement of Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable at the close of each quarter for the Advisory Board. He shall also prepare a report of the Church finances which shall be audited under the direction of the Finance Committee and presented to the church at the Annual Meeting. He shall make such other reports respecting the financial condition as may be requested by the Board of Trustees or the Advisory Board.

In case of the office of Treasurer being declared vacant for any reason before the expiration of the regular term, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the term of office.

Section 7. The Financial Secretary.

A Financial Secretary shall be elected at each Annual Meeting to serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected. Only Class A members shall be eligible for the office of Financial Secretary.

The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of all pledges toward the financial support of the church and distribute the envelopes for the collection of same. He shall prepare an itemized account of the contributions each week to the current expenses, the benevolences of the church and other funds, for the use of the treasurer.

He shall send quarterly statements to each individual subscriber of the amount received or amount due on pledges. For the faithful performance of these duties the Financial Secretary shall receive a salary not to exceed \$75.00 per annum payable quarterly.

Section 8. The Sunday School Superintendent.

A Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected at each Annual Meeting to serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected.

The Sunday School Superintendent shall have such duties and responsibilities as the office indicates and as the Sunday School organization delegates to the Superintendent.

Section 9. The Chief Usher.

A Chief Usher shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected.

The chief usher shall select his assistants and shall be responsible for their appearance and efficiency in the performance of their duties.

Section 10. Denominational Representation.

Delegates shall be elected to represent the church at the Northern Baptist Convention, The Niagara Association and any other denominational bodies to which the church is entitled to be represented at any and all meetings of said bodies prior to such meetings. The number of delegates to be chosen shall be determined by the rules of the denominational body to which the delegates are to be elected.

The duties of delegates shall be to attend all meetings of the denominational body to which they are elected and to vote at all business sessions thereof in accordance with the best interest of our church and the welfare of the denomination at large; to report to the church the nature of such business transacted and to report on such inspirational addresses as may be of benefit to our church.

Section 11. Church Representatives to the Federation of Protestant Church Women.

Two or more Representatives and an equal number of Alternates to the Federation of Protestants Church Women shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for one year

or until successors have been elected.

The Church Representatives to the Federation of Protestant Church Women shall represent the First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls at all meetings of the Federation of Protestant Church Women and bring to the church a report of the actions of the Federation of Protestant Church Women and bring its inspirational messages to the attention of the church.

Section 12. Church Representative to the Young Men's Christian Association.

A Representative to the Young Men's Christian Association of Niagara Falls shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of one year or until a successor has been elected.

The Church Representative to the Young Men's Christian Association shall represent the First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls at all meetings of the Young Men's Christian Association and bring to the church a report of the actions of the Young Men's Christian Association and bring its inspirational message to the attention of the church.

ARTICLE V.

BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

The Boards and Committees of the church and organization therein, their term of office and duties thereof are as follows:

Section 1. The Advisory Board shall be composed of the Trustees, Deacons and Deaconesses and Church Clerk. It shall elect its own chairman, and the Clerk of the church shall act as its secretary. This Board shall have power to add to its number not to exceed five members at large.

It shall be the duty of this Board to submit to the church recommendations on such matters as may be referred to it by the church. It may also make recommendations to the church of its own motion, provided, however, that action on any recommendations on a subject not referred to it shall be postponed to a later meeting on the request of any member, sustained by a vote of a majority of the members present at a regular meeting. Any new business presented to the church shall be referred to the Advisory Board on request of any member of the church, sustained by a majority vote of the members present.

Eleven members of the Advisory Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business provided each of the constituent Boards is represented by at least one-third of its members.

Section 2. Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer of the church, the Financial Secretary, and not less than three other persons appointed by the Chairman of the Trustees, each of whom shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is appointed, and one of whom shall be designated as Chairman by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

This committee shall devise and put into operation ways and means for raising the funds necessary to support the church activities, including missions and shall supervise the disbursement of the funds as appropriated by the church where not otherwise provided. It shall also make a report to the church at the annual meeting including a budget showing the probable receipts and recommended expenditures for the ensuing year.

Any appropriation to create any indebtedness of the church or to expend any money not provided for in the annual budget shall be referred to the Finance Committee and reported upon by it before action thereon by the church.

Section 3. Religious Educational Committee.

The Religious Educational Committee shall consist of the Pastor, the Sunday School Superintendent, the President of the Women's Missionary Society and the President of the Baptist Young People's Union.

The Religious Educational Committee shall make such recommendations to the church or Advisory Board as in their opinion will supplement and extend the religious instruction activities of the church.

Section 4. Missionary Committee.

The Missionary Committee shall consist of a chairman and other persons not exceeding six in number appointed by the Pastor, with the advice of the Board of Deacons and representing as far as possible, all the missionary activities of the various organizations in or associated with the church and shall hold office until

the next annual meeting or until a successor of each is appointed.

The Missionary Committee shall provide instruction and promote interest in missions at home and abroad among the members of the church, but no public appeal shall be made to the church or public to aid in missionary objects without approval of the Finance Committee.

Section 5. Music Committee.

A Music Committee shall be appointed by the Advisory Board at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting to serve for a term of one year or until successors are appointed. It shall be composed of two or more adult members of the church and one of the volunteer members of the choir, if such are available.

The Music Committee shall have charge of providing music for the church services, the engaging of a choir director, organist and such paid singers as may be desirable and power to discharge such persons.

The Music Committee shall be responsible to the Advisory Board and shall make such reports thereto as it may be directed. It shall endeavor to carry out the general policies of the Advisory Board as relating to the musical program of the church.

Section 6. Calling Committee.

The Calling Committee shall consist of five or more members to be appointed by the Pastor, or in his absence or disability by the Chairman of the Deaconesses, immediately after the Annual Meeting to serve for a term of one year or until their successors are appointed.

The duties of the Calling Committee shall be to aid the Pastor in promoting a closer Christian fellowship among the attendants of the church and to extend into the community a spirit of Christian Brotherhood with the object of sharing with others our church privileges.

Section 7. Committee on Baptist Extension in Niagara Falls.

There shall be a committee on Baptist Extension composed of five persons appointed by the Pastor, one of whom shall be a representative from the membership of the Emmanuel Baptist Tabernacle on Hyde Park Boule-

ward and the remainder members of this church.

It shall be the duty of this committee to keep the church informed as to the progress and welfare of all city missionary activities and particularly to build up a close bond of fellowship between this church and the Emmanuel Baptist Tabernacle, and other activities of like nature in the city of Niagara Falls.

ARTICLE VI SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. Nominating Committee.

A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Pastor, or in his absence or disability by the Chairman of the Trustees not less than four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Church.

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of one Deacon, one Deaconess, and one Trustee whose terms of office do not expire at the next Annual Meeting and not less than four other adult Class A members of the church.

It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to present to the church suitable nominees for each office to be filled at the next Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Auditing Committee.

An Auditing Committee consisting of three persons, one of whom shall be a Trustee shall be appointed by the Pastor, or in his absence or disability by the Chairman of the Trustees at the close of the fiscal year.

It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee to examine the books and accounts of the Treasurer of the church and report at the Annual Meeting or as soon thereafter as may be possible.

Section 3. Pulpit Committee.

A Pulpit Committee shall be appointed whenever necessary by reason of the death, resignation or removal of the Pastor.

The Pulpit Committee shall be composed of three Deacons, two Deaconesses, two Trustees who shall be chosen by their respective Boards and two members of the church at large to be chosen by the seven first named persons.

It shall be the duty of the Pulpit Committee to seek out a minister of good report who in their judgment will be most suitable to recommend to the church for election as Pastor. This committee may in its discretion

agree with a pastoral candidate upon a definite term of office and upon the salary to be paid and may include such agreement in its recommendation to the church, but such agreement shall become binding only upon a call being extended to the candidate named and being accepted by him.

The Pulpit Committee shall serve until a Pastor is secured, but should any member thereof, being an officer of the church, cease to be such officer or should any member thereof cease to be a member of the church or resign from the committee or decline to act thereon, the vacancy shall be filled by the church at a regular meeting thereof.

Section 4. Other Special Committees may be appointed at the direction of the church or of the Advisory Board for carrying on any work not already provided for in these By-laws as occasion may arise.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

THEREAT.

Section 1. The church shall meet each Lord's Day and each Wednesday evening at the times appointed by the Deacons for the services of worship, study of the Scriptures and for devotion.

Section 2. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed the first Sunday of each month unless otherwise designated by vote of the Pastor and Deacons.

Section 3. The Wednesday evening preceding the first Sunday in each month shall be designated as the regular meeting of the church for the transaction of ordinary business except such business as may be required to be transacted at a corporate meeting or special meetings called for the purpose of voting on the calling or resignation of a Pastor. Business of an urgent nature may with the approval of the Pastor and Deacons be brought before the church at a Lord's Day service or at a special meeting of which previous notice has been publicly given.

At all such regular or special meetings not designated as corporate meetings, all Class A members, sixteen years of age or over, shall be recognized as qualified voters.

Section 4. Corporate Meetings.

a. The Annual Corporate Meeting of the church shall be held on the Tuesday evening following the second Sunday in May of each year at 7:30 P. M. for the following purposes:

1. The election of officers and delegates whose terms of office expire or whose offices have for any reason become vacant.
2. Consideration of the Annual Reports of church officers, Boards, Committees and subsidiary organizations of the church.
3. Consideration of proposed amendments to these By-laws, notice of which has been included in the notice of the Annual Meeting.
4. The transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

b. "A special corporate meeting may be called by the Board of Trustees on its own motion and shall be called on the written request of at least ten members of the church qualified to vote at a corporate meeting." (Art. VI, Section 20, Relig. Corp. Law.)

c. "Notice of the time and place of the Annual Meeting and of the names of any officers whose successors are to be elected thereat shall be read by the minister of the church or any trustee thereof at a regular meeting of the church for public worship on the two successive Sundays immediately preceding the date of such meeting. Notice of special corporate meetings must include a statement of the nature of the business to be transacted thereat." (Art. VI, Section 70, Relig. Corp. Law.)

d. At such corporate meetings only Class A members of full age shall be qualified voters.

e. "At such corporate meetings, the presence of at least fifty persons qualified to vote thereat, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum and all matters or questions shall be decided by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon." The Pastor shall act as presiding officer and the Church Clerk shall keep the records of the proceedings thereof. There shall be elected two inspectors of election to receive the ballots cast, declare the result thereof and to judge the qualifications of

voters." (Art. VI, Section 71, Relig. Corp. Law.) In the absence of the Pastor, a presiding officer shall be elected by the qualified voters thereat.

f. At all meetings for the election of a Pastor or other officers of the church, voting shall be conducted by the use of paper ballots distributed among the qualified voters present and no person shall be given authority to cast a ballot for any other persons or group of persons. The same rule shall apply to voting on the resignation of a Pastor.

g. In case of failure to hold the Annual Meeting at the specified time, the meeting shall be held on the Wednesday evening of the following week and the notice of such postponement shall be read at the services for public worship on the Sunday preceding.

ARTICLE VIII

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The following shall be the order of business at all regular meetings of the church:

1. Prayer.
2. Reading and approval of minutes of previous meetings.
3. Reports of Officers and Committees.
4. Unfinished business.
5. Election of officers.
6. Reports of Church Representatives.
7. Reports of organizations.
8. New business.
9. Adjournment.
10. Prayer.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

"These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters present and voting at a corporate meeting after written notice embodying such amendment has been read at two regular meetings of the church for public worship next preceding the date of such meeting. (Art. I, Section 5 and Art VI, Section 70, Relig. Corp. Law.)